

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR 17 JAN 50

SUBJECT Defects in Diesel Engines produced
by Skoda, Praha-Smichov, for Export
25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Skoda Works at Praha-Smichov are producing Diesel engines which are exported to Holland, Rumania, India, and South America. These engines have injection pumps (ustrikovací čerpadla) made of aluminum of such poor quality that they very quickly wear out and leak, with the result that the fuel sprays out over the engine. Complaints about this defect come from every country to which these engines have been exported.
2. As a result of various tests it has been discovered that, if a small steel spring is inserted into the pump, the leaking stops and the life of the pump is prolonged. At present, therefore, fitters are being sent to the various countries to which these pumps have been supplied, ostensibly to carry out an inspection of the engines. They have in fact been ordered to place these springs in pumps unobtrusively. As the spring is very small this can easily be done. Pumps which have been so modified are working satisfactorily, but according to expert opinion their life will not be very long. The price of these engines varies, according to size, from 70,000 to 300,000 crowns.
3. Under the Five-Year Plan, the plant where these engines are produced is a model factory which must fulfill its quota 125 per cent. Until recently the plant was producing large engines for the Rumanian oil fields. However, as production of these engines is very slow, it has been stopped, and the factory has been switched to producing easier types of Diesels in order to achieve its 125 per cent. At present there is no market for these simpler types, so they are being stored. Each engine is worth about 150,000 crowns, and at present there are 240 in store.

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